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# **Prosper Band News**

**May 21, 2020**

**Check the Website Often: <http://www.prosperband.com/>**

**Have an upcoming absence? Please record it through our [absence request form](#).**

We are almost to the end..... it has been a great year full of very... well.... Memorable things. Tons of memories that we will hold and cherish for years to come, and some that we hope that we will soon forget (THANKS CORONA!!!). It has been an amazing experience for me and my family to walk with you through this journey of the 2019-20 school year.

Thank you to all that have welcomed me with open arms, thank you to all that have supported your students and others throughout the year, thank you to the parents and students that have challenged me to be a better director, thank you to my fantastic colleagues for your friendship. Most of all thank you to the students for a year that I will never forget. You are the best!

The end of this school year has been quite unique. There seems to be more questions than answers in not only band, but public education, home life, the economy, etc. In addition, rules and regulations are changing from day to day forcing us to not only have a Plan B, but in some instances a Plan R, S & T!!!!

While a difficult time, we are choosing to think positively and forwardly attempting to keep some "normalcy" throughout the process. We are confident that whatever obstacle is thrown our way, we will continue to provide a lasting experience for our students and families.

Due to the current pandemic, we will not be able to host our May/June PBBC Meeting that typically consists of a vote for the proposed 2020-21 PBBC Board Members as recommended by the current board. In addition to that vote, we need to vote for a second item to postpone the finalization of the budget until we gain some more knowledge of what next year will look like. In order to finalize these recommendations from the board, we ask that you please access this Google Form and place your vote for each line item proposed. More information for the reasons behind the postponement of the budget can be found by following the link and the list of recommended candidates for next year's Board is located on the Google Form.

**[CLICK HERE TO VOTE FOR THE TWO LINES ITEMS DISCUSSED AND RECOMMENDED BY THE CURRENT PBBC BOARD.](#)**

We are going to attempt to go through and answer some of your questions in this Band News. While we do not have all of the answers, it will at least let you know of where we are currently.

**Q: When are band yearbooks/awards/gifts going to be distributed?**

We are sending the yearbook to the printer to be made. It turned out great! We will be sending out an electronic version soon so that you have a sneak preview to look through. Once we receive the yearbooks, we will host several pickup dates for seniors, non-returning and returning members. At the pickup times, we will also distribute awards, senior gifts, garment bags, jug hugs and any other items students need. The anticipated distribution time will be the week of June 1<sup>st</sup>, however we will send out more info once we have a confirmation date from the printer.

**Q: When are we starting PHS Band Camp?**

That is a GREAT question and unfortunately, we do not currently have a definite answer yet. We have conflicting information from TEA and UIL going out to the public and that is being sorted out. Some of you may have seen a tentative date of June 8<sup>th</sup> going out from UIL, however, we have yet to hear how they are proposing this look like. In addition, we are waiting for UIL to announce any changes in the summer 10-hour rule, show start times and any other modifications to the rules we must adhere to. All that to say, it is our hope that UIL will make an announcement at the beginning of June as to what band can look like. Once that is decided, we as a District must decide how that should be best implemented in our District.



Q: How am I supposed to plan around PHS Band Camps and vacations when the dates have not been set?

We have set the official PHS band camp dates to begin on the week of July 27<sup>th</sup> and lasting through the beginning of school. While there is a possibility of this changing to a later date depending on TEA, UIL, State and District edicts that is what we are planning on. We are holding off on any earlier camps for now, until we hear more from the State level. If we do host earlier camps, all will be encouraged to attend, however due to the late scheduling we will be flexible with students' prior commitments.

Q: Will there be marching band, marching competitions, football games, etc. next Fall?

The answer to this is still up in the air. Are we hopeful... yes, but we also want to be prepared for any changes. Could there be some changes or alterations of what typically goes on during a "normal" year? Most likely. What that looks like is still unknown. As soon as we hear of any changes, we will let everyone know.

Q: Why have we not heard anything about PHS Band Fees? How much will they be for next year?

The far majority of expenses that we incur as a Booster Club are predominantly in the Fall semester with marching band. The PBBC board has discussed and voted to recommend that we postpone the setting of the 2020-21 budget. Without knowing what we will be participating in yet for competitions, trips, etc., it is impossible to accurately set a budget and band fees. If all goes back to normal, then anticipate that the band fees will be similar to what we have seen in previous years (around \$600-\$800), however depending on any changes in the schedule this could be much less. Our goal has always been to have the biggest bang for the buck for all of our students and families. We will continue that mantra as we make any financial decisions. [To place your vote as an active PBBC member please follow this link.](#)

Q: When will we distribute school-owned marching instruments for PHS students? Are they safe to play on?

All of our school-owned instruments that were in the band hall, along with all of the senior and non-returning student instruments are currently in the shop for repair and cleaning. This process is taking longer than usual as all repair companies were closed for quite a few weeks at the beginning of the pandemic. In addition, all companies have been adhering to a minimum 2-week instrument quarantine before they will begin working on an instrument. I can say that they have begun to clean and repair all of the instruments. As soon as we receive them back to the school, we will place them in quarantine for a set period of time and then schedule a pickup time for all students. While some may believe this is being over cautious, this is to ensure the safety and well-being of all our students and families.

Q: How are all of the marching uniforms being cleaned that were used during the Disney trip?

We have sent in all of our marching uniforms to be professionally cleaned and will be returned to us this summer. This includes uniforms that were not brought to Disney.

All students that were issued concert uniforms for the All-Region concert should have their uniform professionally cleaned. We will have a turn-in opportunity when we return to school in August. The returned uniform should be in a bag with receipt attached to be accepted.

Q: When will Rock Hill students receive instruments?

As stated earlier, many of the music companies both locally and from the instrument distributors that we receive instruments from have been closed for a number of weeks. Now that most distributors are back open, they are backlogged as this is the busiest time of the year for new instrument orders. In addition, RHHS cannot accept shipments until July 1<sup>st</sup>, which places the arrival late in the season once you factor in unpacking, adjustments, proper inventory, etc. PHS has agreed to share instruments as much as we can in order to provide for our sister school. When PHS receives the marching instruments back from the shop, we will be distributing instruments to all high school students. Once RHHS is able to obtain all of their new instruments we will provide opportunities of exchange. Once received back from the RHHS band students, all returned instruments will then go through a proper quarantine process and cleaning to ensure the safety of others.